

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5293

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJ: USCHARGES FOR NATO SATELLITE LAUNCHES

REF: USNATO 4447

1. DURING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND NATO REPS ON US USE OF NATO III A SATELLITE, NATO REPS STATED CONDITION THAT US MUST REDUCE CHARGES FOR LAUNCH AND ORBITAL CONTROL OF NATO SATELLITES TO SAME LEVEL CHARGED US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE US REP TO THESE DISCUSSIONS AGREED TO SEEK THIS REDUCTION IN CHARGES TO NATO, AS REPORTED IN USNATO 4447.

2. NICSMA RECOGNIZES THAT RECENT LOSS OF DSCS II ATLANTIC SATELLITE INVALIDATES THE AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENTS MADE TO DATE. HOWEVER NICSMA MAINTAINS HOPE THAT THE US WILL REDUCE THE LAUNCH AND ORBITAL CONTROL CHARGES DESPITE INVALIDATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS. NICSMA SUBMITS THAT THE US NO DOUBT WILL SEEK TO USE ONE OR MORE OF THE NATO III SATELLITES IN SOME MANNER AND THAT NATO WOULD AT THAT TIME AGAIN ASK THIS REDUCTION IN CHARGES AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT. NICSMA ASSIGNS AN URGENCY TO THE US DECISION BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE DESIRE TO ALIGN NICS FUNDING PRIOR TO OCTOBER 23 MEETING OF THE NICS POLICY COMMITTEE.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT IF THE US DECIDES TO REDUCE THE CHARGES TO

NATO THE REDUCTION BE ANNOUNCED TO NATO IMMEDIATELY RATHER THAN
RETAINED AS A LATER BARGAINING POINT. THE GOOD-WILL EFFECT OF
IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FAVORABLE DECISION SHOULD MORE THAN
OFFSET ANY BENEFITS OF HOLDING THIS CONCESSION FOR FUTURE
BARGAINING. STREATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

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